

March 2009



# Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

**Mar. 1 THE REV. KALEN FRISTAD “Universalism : Past, Present and Powerful”**  
*Rev. Fristad is an ordained United Methodist minister who has embarked on an independent ministry focusing on the history and significance of universalism. He will address the history and significance of the teaching of universalism and will relate the teaching of eternal damnation is not merely a harmless untruth we might appropriately ignore and allow to stand, but it has serious consequences. It leads to the possibility, perhaps even the inevitability, of wars, bigotry, oppression and abuse. On the other hand, the teaching of universalism leads to equality, respect, love and dignity for all.*  
Introduction: Celeste Hinds

**Mar. 8 MICHAEL PATRICK: “Hard Traveling: The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie”**  
*With help from the Back Porch Folk Singers, our Fellowship Board Chairman will discuss the importance of the music of folk singer and writer Woody Guthrie (1912-1967).*  
Introduction: Pat Smith

**Mar. 15 STEPHEN BLACK : “The Future of Moral Progress in Alabama”**  
*Mr. Black will discuss possible solutions and essential ingredients for engendering civic engagement and commitment to progressive change, including thoughts on the role of religious communities in such efforts.*  
Introduction: Katherine Thompson

**Mar. 22 DR. HARVEY JOANNING , PhD : “My Ears are Ringing: The Causes and Treatment of Tinnitus”**  
*Dr. Joanning is a professor and a licensed marriage and family therapist, and serves as a volunteer on the help line of the American Tinnitus Association.*  
Introduction: Jean Lawrence

**Mar. 29 BAYNE SNYDER : “An Inconvenient Truth About ,An Inconvenient Truth : The Silence About Population Stabilization”**  
*Both the new green movement and stabilization of world population are needed to combat climate change and the depletion of natural resources. The controversy over stabilization will be explored.*  
Introduction: Gwen Snyder

**Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the March 29 program. Please bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and conversation.**

**Sunday Service 11 a.m., 1150 Fairhope Ave.**

Adult discussion group meets each Sunday at 10 a.m.

Children's Fellowship each Sunday 11 a.m. -12 noon. Come join us!

Write 1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532. Tel. 251-929-3207. Visit our website at

[www.fairhopeuu.org](http://www.fairhopeuu.org)

[fairhopeunitarian@att.net](mailto:fairhopeunitarian@att.net)

## KITCHEN KREWE & GREEN SANCTUARY NEWS



Many of us produce small amounts of used cooking oil that are not worthwhile recycling. You now may bring these to the east corner of the north kitchen counter, to be combined in a marked white jug. The larger amount of oil will then be recycled by a member of the Green Sanctuary Committee.

This small contribution will keep oil out of the environment and go towards providing Fairhope maintenance trucks with a cleaner bio-fuel.

– Submitted by Bayne Snyder

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I write it is February, a month for Valentine luxury and Mardi Gras revelry, but also, for some, a time for voluntary Lenten fasting that will continue throughout March. Many of our congregation are retirees living largely on dividends or interest on investments. Both are now yielding shockingly less income, with the result that there is involuntary fasting here and elsewhere in society. Dramatic improvement soon is unlikely. It may be a particularly apt time, to cite the Unitarian Universalist principle, for "compassion in human relations." It is also probably apt now to remember that the United States has weathered many financial crises in its history -- who has even heard now of the financial catastrophe of 1873? -- and always emerged stronger in the end.

## Summary Financial Statement January, 2009

	Budgeted	Actual	Overage/ (Deficit)
Support and Revenue			
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,403</b>	<b>(98)</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>1,259</b>
Total Support and Revenue	3,750	4,912	1,162
Expenses			
<b>Building</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>1,773</b>	<b>766</b>
<b>Committees</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>233</b>		<b>233</b>
Total Expenses	3,750	2,583	1,167
Net Operating Increase/ (Decrease)	0	2,329	2,329

– Submitted by Kay Seymour

## CHILDREN'S FELLOWSHIP BEGINS NEW SERIES

In recent RE classes we have begun a series called "A Tapestry of Faith Program for Children" from the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

The first lesson from this program introduced the notion that our interconnectedness with one another and the Earth forms the basis for understanding justice and goodness. We shared a story and played some games that illustrated this notion. The lesson objectives were to:

- Deepen their understanding of the seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle: respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
- Learn that help can come from unexpected places
- Begin to understand concepts of power and vulnerability and the links that connect those with power to those who are vulnerable
- Practice empathy for others
- Develop their awareness of differing perspectives

In the second lesson, children were introduced to their own conscience as an inner voice that can guide them to make choices that effect goodness and justice. We shared a story from the Buddhist tradition and played some games that illustrated this notion. The lesson objectives were to:

- Hear a story about a group of children that learns about conscience
- Practice recognizing and sharing about times when they have been guided by their consciences, and times when they did not listen to their consciences
- Articulate an experience they had in which they demonstrated or observed goodness or justice in action
- Apply multiple perspectives to a moral dilemma by engaging in a role-play

In the third lesson, children were introduced to faith, hope and prayer as tools that can help us discern the path of goodness and justice. We shared a Jewish tale from Afghanistan, played some games, and made some art that illustrated this notion. The lesson objectives were to:

- Learn about the role of faith, hope and prayer in cultivating justice and goodness
- Gain knowledge about different types of prayer through personal experience
- Experience gratitude by articulating something for which they are grateful
- Give voice to a wish or hope and hear the wishes of others
- Experience accepting responsibility by naming something they are sorry for
- Consider the needs of others and the Earth and experiencing using prayer to articulate hopes
- Make a commitment to a specific act of goodness or justice to advance one of their own prayers



We invite all children ages 4 - 12 to join us as we continue this series based on the basic human values that connect world religions. The snacks are always really awesome too!

– Submitted by Ray Ables

## ART COMMITTEE TO WELCOME PHOTOGRAPHER

The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship will hold an art reception for photographer Joe Schlicht on Saturday, March 14th from 3-5 pm. His work will be exhibited until the end of April.

Schlicht was born and raised in upstate New York, where the region's landscape provided an immense range of natural color and light to serve as early inspiration for his photographic passion. In high school, he began developing prints in the darkroom and worked to establish the groundwork for his incredibly unique style behind the camera. He continued looking at the world through a camera lens at State University of New York at Fredonia, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Communication with a minor in Fine Art. During those four years, studying under Dr. Terry Lindquist, Joe developed both his own photographic prints and a desire to earn a living using his creativity.

After graduation, Joe set his sights on the cityscape of Atlanta, Georgia, where he works as a multi media professional, shooting video and performing postproduction editing and color correction. Photography is still his passion, though it now shares a place alongside his beautiful wife, Diana. Joe continues to find his most prominent inspiration in the spectacular things that share the world around him, and continually strives to share that inspiration with others through the finished prints he creates in his home digital darkroom.

The Heather Nutting will play during the reception, to which the public is invited. As always, refreshments will be plentiful and attendees will be able to meet the artist.

– Submitted by Jean Lawrence

## "PREPARING FOR FAIRHOPE'S FUTURE" MOVIE SERIES

Residents of Fairhope and surrounding areas who are concerned about the future well-being of our community are invited to attend six movies in a series called "*Preparing for Fairhope's Future*". The movies are being sponsored by a committee established by the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation to look into possible future changes that may affect the quality of life of area residents.

Following the second movie a Study Group will be formed, open to all concerned citizens, to identify the potential future changes that might affect our quality of life, and options of actions that could be taken to begin to address those changes.

These movies will be shown at the first floor auditorium of the Fairhope Public Library, and are free and open to the public. The times, dates, and movies scheduled in March are as follows:

2 p.m. Thursday March 12: "*A Fair Hope*" A video on the history of Fairhope that was aired on PBS several years ago.

2 p.m. Thursday March 26: "*The End of Suburbia - Oil Depletion and the Collapse of The American Dream*" Explores the American Way of Life and its prospects as the planet approaches a critical era, as global demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply.

– Submitted by Ed Lawrence

## FEBRUARY BOARD MINUTES

Chairman Michael Patrick called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., February 6. Other Board members present were Kay Seymour, Ruth Geraci, Robin Fabel, Jill Teumer, Pam Perkins, Nancy Martin, and Jean Lawrence. Also present were Stu Chapman, Bert Brun, and Wilma Albers.

-The January minutes were approved as amended.

-Kay Seymour presented the treasurer's report, which was approved.

-Jack Gooding is the new chair of the building usage committee. Jack was not present, but Robin Fabel presented a request from a homeowners association to use the building on March 14 for three hours for approximately 40 people. Donna Adler will be the FUF member on hand, although Jean Lawrence will open and close since the building will be open for the art exhibit anyway. Donna has indicated a \$25.00 donation will be offered. Motion carried.

-The building usage policy will stand as written, giving full discretion to Jack when he is up to speed.

-Bud Gardner's Thursday night colloquium series was approved.

-The Board will ask that Elaine Snyder-Conn and Jeannine Normand find out more about the expense involved in previous pavement for the parking lot before a decision is made as to scope of project.

-Since the old office computer contains some sensitive material and probably should not be disposed of indiscriminately, Kay proposed we allow Heather Nutting the computer for her personal use. Motion carried.

-Bert Brun asked for clarification of the \$1,000 contribution budget. Administrative costs are included in that amount, all disbursements must be approved by the

and proceeds from any fundraisers can be used for their committee's use after prior approval by the Board.

-Wilma Albers reports that the Program Committee will be chaired by Ed Lawrence.

-Stu Chapman reports that the air conditioning unit needs servicing; the outside lighting and irrigation systems are on the same electrical circuit and must be separated; and the new acoustical system needs adjusting.

-Kay reports that Dee Leff is concerned about the temperature in the building affecting the piano. It appears to be out of tune, possibly due to temperature changes; however, it is more likely the result of changes in humidity, a problem more difficult to address. According to Stu and others with an engineering background, changing the temperature setting will not be of sufficient benefit to offset the additional power costs. Stu will give the Board's decision to Dee.

-Jean Lawrence is planning another art trip in March to the Walter Anderson museum in Ocean Springs, MS.

-The Delicious Dinner Project has netted \$1450 for the general fund.

-Ruth Geraci will present a new-member series in the near future.

*- Submitted by Pam Perkins*

### MARCH BOARD MEETING

The monthly FUF Board meeting will be Friday, March 6th at 930am. Anyone desiring to submit an agenda item may do so by contacting any board member.

*- Submitted by Michael Patrick*

## **FELLOWSHIP OFFICERS FOR 2009**

President: Robin Fabel  
 Chairman of the Board: Michael Patrick  
 Vice President: Jack Gooding  
 Second Vice President representing Program  
 Committee: Wilma Albers  
 Treasurer: Kay Seymour  
 Recording Secretary: Pam Perkins  
 Corresponding Secretary: Jill Teumer  
 Past President: Ruth Geraci  
 At-large Members of the Board:  
 Joyce Burkhart, Nancy Martin, Jean Lawrence

### **CURRENT COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Art:** Jean Lawrence  
**Audiovisual Committee:** Ed Lawrence  
**Building Maintenance Coordinator:** Stuart Chapman  
**Building Usage Manager:** Jack Gooding  
**Caring & Concerns:** Joyce Burkhart  
**Chalice Lighters:** Edith Hinrichs  
**Computer Security:** Kay Seymour  
**Finance / Budget :** Gail Gardner  
**Fund Raising:** *rotating*; Pam Perkins (*yard sale*)  
**Green Sanctuary:** Debbie Jessup  
**Historical Records:** Michael Patrick  
**Hospitality:** Jule Moon  
**Light Bulb:** George Hinds  
**Lawn & Garden:** Celeste Hinds  
**Library:** Pam Perkins  
**Membership:** Ruth Geraci  
**Memory / Honor Book:** Lisa Meyers  
**Music Planning:** Dee Leff  
**Newsletter :** Nancy Martin  
**Opening, Setting Up & Closing:** Frank Laraway  
**Programs:** Ed Lawrence  
**Publications:** Vivian Gooding  
**Publicity:** Diane Ehlers  
**Readings:** Debbie Jessup & Pam Perkins  
**Religious Education:** *vacant* (Ruth Geraci, currently acting)  
**Saturday Evening Activities:**  
 – Documentary Movies: Ed Lawrence  
 – Game Night: Ruth Geraci  
**Social Action Committee:** *rotating chair*  
**Spiritual Concerns Committee:** *vacant*  
**Sunday Bulletin:** Ruth Geraci  
**Web Master:** E. J. Campfield

– Submitted by Ruth Geraci

## **INVITATION TO NEW MEMBERS AND NEW (OR OLD) FRIENDS**

A three-session orientation series will be offered in March for new Members and for anyone considering membership in the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship (FU F). If you've joined with in the past year you may be interested in learning more about and discussing our Fellowship and Unitarian Universalism in general. If you've been a Friend for a while, this is an opportunity for you to consider upgrading your personal commitment to our Fellowship. No pressure, though. In fact, one of the orientation segments will be "Ten Reasons Not to Join our Fellowship" along with "Three Reasons to Become an FU F Member." We will also use the booklet "Welcome: A Unitarian Universalist Primer" which will be given to participants.

At these sessions you will meet long-time Unitarians from our Fellowship, hear about the history and structure of our Fellowship, discuss Unitarian Universalism as a religion, become acquainted with UUA and what goes on in UU fellowships and churches across the country, and learn of opportunities to be active participants in our community.

We can hold these three sessions, all either in the morning or evening. For this series, majority of those interested will rule. If you'd like to participate in the three sessions, please indicate your preference from the choices below.

- 1) Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11.
- 2) Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m.
- 3) Either would be fine.
- 4) Some other time, but not now

Please email an indication of your interest and your choice of meeting times to:

**uuruthg@gulftel.com**

Because group size will be limited so that everyone can participate in discussions, please respond promptly. We will schedule another series if there's enough interest. If you have questions, send me an email, catch me at Fellowship, or call 251-970-3407 and leave a message for me to call you.

– Submitted by Ruth Geraci,

## **SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

### **FAULKNER STATE NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED**

The recipient of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship \$500 Nursing Scholarship at Faulkner State Community College is 23-year-old Kimberly Strickler, shown below with Robin Fabel, Fellowship President, and Jean Graham, Faulkner's Director of Nursing. According to Ms. Strickler, this award will provide the final boost toward her R.N., which she will receive in July/August 2009.

Graham states that Strickler met four criteria for selection: grade point average, grades in nursing courses, competency level in patient care, and financial need. She is the kind of student Faulkner likes to reward, Graham said.

The Social Action Committee at the Unitarian Fellowship selected the scholarship as a community project designed to help both, an individual and the community, taking into consideration the current nursing shortage and the availability of the nursing program through Faulkner in Fairhope.

Ms. Strickler, who married a year ago, is the first in her family to receive a college degree. She moved to Alabama at age 2 from Meridian, MS. and currently lives in Mobile. She was drawn into nursing during the final illness of her grandmother who died of cancer. Witnessing the nursing care she received was her inspiration for changing her college major.

Ms. Strickler transferred to Faulkner after making that career decision. She'd been struggling to work and attend college, first at Auburn, and then at the University of South Alabama. She's had the support of her husband, parents, younger sisters, and now the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship. Ms. Strickler states that receiving this scholarship has been exciting and helpful.



*From L to R; Jean Graham, Kimberly Strickler, Robin Fabel*

## FIRST SATURDAY MOVIE

There has been some criticism of our documentary movie series for being too one-sided, and usually showing the progressive and pro-environmental side of things. It has been expressed that we should present both sides of any situation and not just one since nothing is either just black or white.

In order to provide an opposing view to balance the environmental documentary movies previously shown, at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 7 we will show the movie: *"The Great Global Warming Swindle"* by Martin Durkin, first shown in the United Kingdom on Channel 4 in 2006 and made into a DVD in 2007.

You may remember reading about the movie in the Press-Register's February 11 Thomas Sowell column in which he referred to the movie as evidence that the observation that human use of fossil fuels is contributing to global warming is unproven.

Global warming deniers and advocates of addressing the threat of global warming as well as those who are still weighing the issue will be welcome to present their views following the movie, verbally and/or in writing.

– Submitted by Ed Lawrence

## GAME NIGHT TWICE MONTHLY

Game Night is a great way to meet Fellowship members and friends – come join in the fun starting at 6:30 p.m.! We have a variety of board and card games, and new games are always welcome. New players are invited to learn a game or share one they know.

Game Night is held on the second and fourth Saturday nights of each month.

For information contact  
Ruth Geraci, 251-970-3407  
or [uuruthg@gulftel.com](mailto:uuruthg@gulftel.com).



– Submitted by Ruth Geraci

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Tue. Mar. 3** Knitters Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., Mar. 3:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., Mar. 4** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Thu., Mar. 5** Non-fiction Book Group 930am  
**Fri., Mar. 6** FUF Board meeting 930am  
**Sat., Mar. 7:** First Saturday Movie 7pm  
**Tue., Mar. 10:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., Mar. 10:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., Mar. 11:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Thu., Mar. 12:** Authors Discussion Group 930am  
**Sat., Mar. 14:** Art Reception, 3-5pm  
**Sat., Mar. 14:** Game Night 630-9pm  
**Tue., Mar. 17:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., Mar. 17:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., Mar. 18:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Thu., Mar. 19:** Non-fiction Book Group 930am  
**Tue., Mar. 24:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., Mar. 24:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., Mar. 25:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Sat., Mar. 28:** Game Night 630-9pm  
**Sun., Mar. 29:** Last Sunday Potluck 12pm  
**Sun., Mar. 29:** April newsletter deadline 5pm  
**Tue., Mar. 31:** Knitters Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., Mar. 31** Choir rehearsal 330pm



## NEWSLETTER

Submit calendar events or articles specific to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship for publication one week prior to the last Sunday of each month or as noted in the newsletter calendar section. For events, please include all pertinent information. Members and Friends are invited to submit poems, quotations or other brief words of wisdom to be published as space allows.

Provide written copy or email to editor at:

**[nanpie@juno.com](mailto:nanpie@juno.com)**

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